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THE GREEK LOVE OF DETAIL.

The crocodile of the Nile, Herodotus tells us in that admirable Second Book of his, has pig's eyes, tusk-like teeth, and a dorsal armor of very strong scales; he also adds that it is the only animal having no tongue and moving its upper instead of its under jaw, and that leeches infest its mouth, which it gladly opens for a certain bird resembling the plover to walk in and feast on the troublesome parasites—a service so grateful to the hideous reptile that it holds ajar those huge jaws, which could easily make match-wood of a fishing boat, until the bird has walked out again unharmed. This vividly recalls the picture, in the old natural-history books, of a crocodile with its upper jaw, and in fact the whole cerebral region, tilted at an angle of nearly forty-five degrees with the lower jaw, which rests on the ground, while a small bird promenades the oral cavity (a veritable *bonne bouche* for the feathered feaster) with much apparent contentment.

All these details are characteristic of the Greek historian's inquiring and observing genius, but two of them also illustrate his occasional too ready acceptance of that which is curious and striking, and which, for the interest of his narrative, ought to be true if it is not. As for the leeches, and the bird which alone of animate beings is the ugly monster's friend, and which Herodotus calls the 'trochilos,' later researches have proved the Halicarnassian traveller to be in the right. The parasite—'bdella' is its Greek name—has been identified with the 'timnatis nilotica,' and the bird, which the Arabs of to-day call 'siksak,' is inferred to be the 'pluvianus ægyptius.' But concerning the anomalous absence of a tongue and the exceptional hinging of the jaws, the historian's eyes deceived him. His account of the matter is very interesting, but unhappily not true. Modern naturalists have discovered a tongue to the animal, a thick fleshy growth, attached, as they tell us, very far back in the throat, and not so much in evidence as the unruly member of some higher forms of vertebrates. And the lower jaw, being prolonged backward beyond the skull, gives to the reptile's yawn a generous amplitude, and in some way conveys the impression that the upper and less considerable blade of these enormous shears is the moving part.

But exceptions only prove the rule, and the Ionic traveller's fondness for graphic detail has

long been recognized as something far different from the ordinary sight-seer's craving for novelty. No one will severely blame Herodotus for not pushing his study of saurian anatomy to a point that might have robbed us of his book before the first page was written. He redeems his slight error of detail by going on to tell how the reptile is hunted,—a curious method, substantially the same as that still in vogue on the banks of the Nile. Another small descriptive item in this Egyptian narrative chanced to appeal to the present writer with a certain vividness and reality. In his account of the festival called the 'lighting of the lamps,' periodically celebrated at Sais, and in fact throughout Egypt, Herodotus says the lamps were filled with oil and salt, the wick floating on the surface and the lamps burning all night. The domestic column of a recent newspaper contains a paragraph advising housewives to put a little salt in their lamps to make them burn more brightly; which goes to demonstrate again that there is nothing new under the sun.

De Quincey once styled Herodotus 'the Froissart of Antiquity,' but later admitted that he had done the earlier writer an injustice; for Froissart he declares to be 'little else than an historian, whereas Herodotus is the counterpart of some ideal Pandora, by the universality of his accomplishments.' And the English essayist proceeds to name some of the Greek historian's many excellences. His approximate accuracy in giving dimensions and distances in Egypt, notwithstanding the crudeness of his instruments of measurement, De Quincey considers 'all but marvellous'; and he warmly admires his description of that ancient land and its inhabitants. Judged as 'an exploratory traveller,' he continues, in an essay that has not yet ceased to be good reading, 'and as a naturalist, who had to break ground for the earliest entrenchments in these new functions of knowledge, we do not scruple to say that, *mutatis mutandis* and *concessis concedendis*, Herodotus has the separate qualifications of the two men whom we would select by preference as the most distinguished among Christian traveller-naturalists; he has the universality of the Prussian Humboldt, and he has the picturesque fidelity to nature of the English Dampier—of whom the last was a simple self-educated seaman, but strong-minded by nature, austere accurate through his moral reverence for truth, and zealous in pursuit of knowledge, to an excess which raises him to a level with the noble Greek. Dampier, when in the last stage of exhaustion from a malignant dysentery, unable to stand upright, and surrounded by perils in a land of infidels, crawled on his hands and feet to verify some fact of natural history, under the blazing fore-

noon of the tropics; and Herodotus, having no motive but his own inexhaustible thirst of knowledge, embarked on a separate voyage, fraught with hardships, toward a chance of clearing up what seemed a difficulty of some importance in deducing the religious mythology of his country.'

To pass now to a Greek historian of the succeeding generation and of another dialect, even the monotonous details of stages and parasangs that used to make Xenophon's retreating Ten Thousand so tiresome a company of tired soldiers to our schoolboy minds, may come back in later life as not unpleasing bits of realism, acceptable for their very dullness, their rigid adherence to the hard facts of that stern struggle for a sight of the sea, with its cheering promise of home and friends. So, too, the Catalogue of Ships in the 'Iliad,' a passage of 266 lines that used to be skipped in the classroom as not grammatically instructive, contributes by its very monotony to complete one's mental image of those primitive galleys hastening in squadrons across the Ægean and laden with warriors that are to do battle 'far on the ringing plains of windy Troy.' The description of the shield of Achilles is another bit of detail, tiresome probably to the learner, but afterward recognized as a necessary part of the poem. As Professor Butcher has well said, poetry was not for the Greeks, as it so often is for us, an escape from reality, a refuge from world-weariness; and he quotes Strabo's remark that 'to construct an empty teratology or tale of marvels on no basis of truth is not Homeric,' and that in both 'Iliad' and 'Odyssey' we have a transference of actual events to the domain of poetry.

A recent study of the 'Odyssey' by a French scholar, M. Victor Bérard, is said by the reviewers to contain some curious and convincing illustrations of Homer's accuracy as a geographer and of his practical acquaintance with the navigation of the Mediterranean, with its islands and shores, its winds and currents, and with all the habits and customs of the seafaring folk that bordered its eastern waters. Even the farthest reaches of the hero's wanderings cease not to be linked with reality. Mr. Butcher quotes from the Frenchman's work some striking instances of the close agreement in the 'Odyssey' between poetic fancy and prosaic reality of detail. In Book ii. ll. 212 ff., Telemachus asks the suitors for a ship and twenty men, that he may go to Sparta and sandy Pylus to inquire about his father. The request is refused; but Athene, in Mentor's guise, equips the expedition, and Telemachus sets sail with Mentor, the hour being approximately indicated by line 388, 'The sun set, and shadowy grew all the ways,' a formula occurring seven times in the

poem in connection with travel, and evidently denoting a late hour at night. Athene sent 'a favoring gale, a fresh wind from the northwest, singing over the wine-dark sea,' and early next morning Pylus is reached. If we consult the official 'Sailing Directions' of to-day, says Mr. Butcher, we shall find that land and sea breezes alternate in those Greek waters, the wind from the sea beginning to blow each morning about ten o'clock and keeping all vessels in harbor the rest of the day, but subsiding at sunset, and followed, after some hours of calm, by the land breeze. Hence Telemachus, leaving Ithaca about eleven at night, would have a favoring wind to waft him toward Pylus. The poet who described this voyage of Telemachus had a mariner's knowledge of that whereof he spake.

Another example from the same source. Book v. 295-6 pictures a tempest encountered by Odysseus after he had left Calypso's island and was approaching the Phæacian coast: 'Eurus and Notus clashed together, and stormy Zephyrus, and Boreas, born in the bright air, rolling onward a great wave.' Of these four winds—southeast, southwest, northwest, and northeast, respectively—the last-named, Boreas, finally prevailed, blowing continuously for two days and two nights, then falling and giving place to a 'windless calm' on the third morning. Again consulting the 'Sailing Directions,' we read, as quoted by Mr. Butcher: 'It frequently happens that winds from the N.E., N.W., and S.E. blow at the same time in different parts of the Adriatic. The wind called *Bora* is most to be feared and demands active and incessant watch. . . .

In summer it never lasts more than three days.' Thus, we are assured by M. Bérard, the storm that overtook Odysseus was no mere storm of literature, but a genuine Adriatic tempest. While Virgil's storms always rage three days, that is simply a part of his stock of poetic furniture. The author of the 'Odyssey' is minutely accurate in every detail; and the disturbance of the elements as described by him off the Phæacian coast furnishes an interesting bit of confirmation of the old tradition that Phæacia and the modern Corfu are one and the same.

That Greek literature should be distinguished by clearness, precision, minute attention to detail, is of course no more than one would expect from what is known of the Greek character and of the environment that helped to produce it. Under those bright blue skies, vagueness and mysticism were not at home. An insatiate love of knowledge, of facts as they actually are, marked the Greeks. This love of knowledge, says Plato in the Fourth Book of the 'Republic,' they had in as marked a degree as the Phœnicians and Egyptians had the love of money. To

know was to the Greek mind an excellent thing, apart from all use, sordid or noble, of the knowledge acquired. One important department of learning, however, was strangely neglected. Eager as the people of Greece were to learn about distant lands and their inhabitants, they appear to have held it not worth while, or not in keeping with their national importance, to learn foreign languages. Herodotus in his travels evidently blundered along as best he could with only his mother-tongue in which to make known his wants and his queries. Like the unthinking and untaught person of our own time and country, the cultivated Greek seemed almost to assume without question that the words of his own language were the original and natural names of things. Epicurus, observes our authority already so freely quoted, felt no doubt, skeptical philosopher though he was, that the gods, if they spoke at all, spoke Greek; and even so acute a mind as Plato's fell a victim to fallacies that he would have easily avoided had he known the grammar of even one foreign tongue. But in one respect, and that a matter of language again, the love of detail and the striving for precision went so far as occasionally to try the patience of a modern reader of ancient Greek. The wealth and variety of modifying particles, designed to render impossible all defect in consecutiveness, to smooth over all abruptness of transition, contribute at times to perplexity, or at least to irritation and weariness, rather than to perfect clearness. Pray, exclaims the much-enduring reader, cannot a reasonable being draw an inference now and then without the officious assistance of an illative conjunction, or of two or three of them marvellously welded together, with crasis and elision and various euphonic changes of consonants and vowels? Yet over-scrupulous particularity is better than slovenly ambiguity, and an infinite capacity for taking pains than careless disregard of small things.

The temptation is strong, even at the risk of perpetrating a few platitudes, to indulge in some closing reflections. A most excellent thing must one consider this Greek fondness for facts in all their details. There are times when the mind craves concrete realities large and small, as the raw material out of which mental tissue is formed, just as there are also moments when the longing is irresistible for the vague and mystical and dreamily suggestive. Preraphaelism no less than impressionism, Greek clarity no less than Hindu mysticism, has its appointed hour. It is well at times to feel strongly convinced that knowledge is good for its own sake. Between knowing and not knowing, who could hesitate in his choice? A *plus* is always infinitely preferable to a *zero* or a *minus*. More-

over, if the business of our lives be not the quest of truth, in all edifying forms and in larger and larger measure, and its worthy exemplification in daily conduct, what then is it? Enriched and fortified with large acquisitions of concrete facts and the ideal truths they symbolize, may not one meet the smiles and the frowns of fortune with like equanimity? Or, rather, to him who conforms himself to the facts can fortune wear any frowns? What, after all, is man but the sum of all he has inherited and all he has experienced and learned? And if he has but done his part toward making that sum total a considerable one, the better for him in the way of stability, virtue, contentment, usefulness, and countless other respects too obvious to need naming.

PERCY F. BICKNELL.

SHAKESPEARIAN DRAMA IN CHICAGO.

It is almost ten years since the writer of this article published in *THE DIAL* a record of the Shakespearian performances at the Chicago theatres during a season which had appeared noteworthy for its classical productions.* In view of the charges of decadence so often urged against the contemporary stage, and the public taste for dramatic amusement, together with the alternating assertions—on the one hand that Shakespeare is no longer enjoyed and therefore seldom performed, on the other that such and such a season has been signalized by a revival of the classic drama beyond precedent,—in view of much discussion of these and kindred themes, it may be that a complete record of the Shakespearian plays produced in Chicago during the past ten years will have not only a passing interest, but prove of value as presenting facts bearing on the case.

By way of further comment, it may be said that while the Chicago stage is distinctly provincial as compared with that in New York, it is undoubtedly less affected by artificial conditions than is that of the metropolis. Chicago is near the centre of national life, and is perhaps as truly indicative of the rise and fall of dramatic values as any city in the country.

While it is not possible in this article to deal in detail with the characteristics of the ten seasons under review, attention is called to the first and last of the series, which appear to be the most notable of all. During the dramatic season of 1895-96, thirteen Shakespearian plays

were presented: 'As You Like It,' 'Twelfth Night,' 'Two Gentlemen of Verona,' 'Midsummer Night's Dream,' 'Merchant of Venice,' 'Taming of the Shrew,' 'King Henry IV.,' 'Richard III.,' 'Julius Caesar,' 'Romeo and Juliet,' 'Macbeth,' 'Othello,' 'Hamlet.' There were two Richards, two Macbeths, two Violas, and two Rosalinds; three companies appeared in 'Taming of the Shrew,' two in 'Romeo and Juliet.' There were four Othellos, five Shylocks, and seven Hamlets. In September and October, Shakespeare was played for three weeks, Miss Rehan and Miss Marlowe appearing simultaneously during two weeks of the three. Again, in January and February, there were engagements covering three weeks: Mr. Whiteside, Mr. Skinner and Mr. Creston Clarke appearing in Shakespearian roles. During this period, 'Hamlet' was presented fourteen times, and twice the theatre-goer had his choice of two interpretations. In March there were thirteen performances, and in April sixteen. In every month of the season except November, Shakespeare was played in Chicago. The companies of eleven different artists appeared in these productions, and there were eighty-eight performances of these thirteen plays. Besides the players already named, Mr. Warde, Mr. James, Mr. Mantell, and Thomas Keene appeared; the younger Salvini essayed the characters of Othello and Hamlet; Sir Henry Irving was seen as Shylock and as Macbeth.

From the table given at the end of this article, it is evident that, taking into account both the number of performances and the number of plays presented, no subsequent season compares in interest with the one reviewed, until we reach that of 1904-5. This last season is so remarkable for its offerings in the Shakespearian drama that it is worth while to note the productions in detail. For the sake of clearness the various engagements are tabulated thus:

Plays.	Dates.	Players.	Performances.
1 Romeo and Juliet	Sept. 19-24 Feb. 5-12 Sept. 26-Oct. 1	Sothorn-Marlowe Bush Temple Sothorn-Marlowe	7 12 19 7
2 Much Ado	Apr. 13, 14 Oct. 3-8	Ben Greet Sothorn-Marlowe	9 7
3 Hamlet	Apr. 8, 20 May 16-22	Ben Greet Mantell	2 9 18
4 Taming of the Shrew (Katharine & Petruchio)	Jan. 23-28 Mar. 1, 2	Rehan Blanche Bates	7 2 9
5 Merchant of Venice	Jan. 23-Feb. 11 Apr. 5, 15	Mansfield Ben Greet	7 3 10
6 Richard III.	Jan. 24-Feb. 10 Apr. 23-29	Mansfield Mantell	5 9 14
7 Winter's Tale	Feb. 19-25 Apr. 17-29	Warde-Kidder Viola Allen	9 16 26
8 As You Like It	Apr. 12 May 8-15	Ben Greet Bush Temple	2 11 13
9 Twelfth Night	Apr. 3, 4, 15	Ben Greet	3 3
10 Two Gentlemen	Apr. 6, 7	" "	2 2
11 Comedy of Errors	Apr. 10, 11	" "	2 2
12 Othello	May 9-15	Mantell	9 9

123 133

* 'Shakespeare in Chicago,' I.—*THE DIAL*, June 16, '96.

'Shakespeare in Chicago,' II.—*THE DIAL*, July 16, '97.

'The Passing Show.'—*THE DIAL*, July 1, '98.

'Plays and Players of a Season.'—*THE DIAL*, July 1, '99.

It will be seen that the record opens with the advent of Mr. Sothern and Miss Marlowe in an engagement of three weeks, during which they presented the three plays, 'Romeo and Juliet,' 'Much Ado,' and 'Hamlet,' giving seven performances of each play. It was not until the last of January that an opportunity was again given to see a Shakespearian drama on the Chicago stage; but the week of January 23 brought two stars into the field of vision, Mr. Mansfield appearing for two weeks alternating in the roles of 'Richard' and 'Shylock,' and Miss Rehan appearing for a single week in 'Taming of the Shrew.' Twelve performances of 'Romeo and Juliet' by the Bush Temple Stock Company are recorded in February, and we had during that same month the production of the 'Winter's Tale' by Mr. Warde and Miss Kidder. Very appropriately, April, the birth-month of the great dramatist, appears as the stellar month of the season. On April 3, Mr. Ben Greet began his notable engagement, of which the first two weeks were devoted to sixteen presentations of seven Shakespearian plays; these were 'Twelfth Night,' 'Merchant of Venice,' 'Two Gentlemen of Verona,' 'Comedy of Errors,' 'As You Like It,' 'Much Ado,' and 'Hamlet.' On the seventeenth of the month came Miss Viola Allen's appearance for sixteen performances in the 'Winter's Tale.' Meanwhile Mr. Mantell, during the last week in April, was presenting his interpretation of 'Richard III.' Inasmuch as Mr. Mantell's productions were given nine times in the week, we have for the month of April, 1905, the noteworthy record of forty-one performances of nine Shakespearian plays; except on April 1 and on the first three Sundays of the month, there were presentations every day. Mr. Mantell's engagement included a week's appearances in 'Othello' and another week's in 'Hamlet.' In May, also, the Bush Temple Company gave eleven performances of 'As You Like It.' It should be added that in March Miss Blanche Bates twice included 'Katharine and Petruchio' as one of the plays in a double bill. No account is here made of an open-air performance of 'As You Like It' by Mr. Greet's company in September at the Onwentsia Club. The 133 performances of these twelve plays certainly make the dramatic season of 1904-5 a very effective climax to this record of a decade. If now we were to include the engagement of Mr. Greet and his company during the summer season—eight performances of seven plays at the University of Chicago (July 12-22) and nineteen performances of six plays at Ravinia Park (July 24-Aug. 5)—we should have a truly remarkable record of 160 performances of fourteen plays,—'Midsummer Night's Dream' and

'The Tempest' being included in this supplementary list.

The writer does not care to pronounce any *dicta* upon the summary already given or upon that which follows. In the table appended, six down-town theatres are represented; they average, perhaps, eight performances a week, and the length of the regular season is about forty weeks. Upon this basis, any reader who is fond of figures may, if he wishes, produce some more or less edifying calculations. But here are the simple records of the Shakespearian productions in Chicago for the past ten years.

SHAKESPEARE IN CHICAGO: 1895-6—1904-5.*

	1895-96	1896-97	1897-98	1898-99	1899-00	1900-01	1901-02	1902-03	1903-04	1904-05	Total
1 Romeo and Juliet . . .	4	14	4	13	24	..	25	30	14	19	137
2 Merchant of Venice . .	11	5	4	..	6	16	8	11	23	10	94
3 Hamlet	20	6	4	21	3	13	..	18	91
4 Richard III	7	7	9	14	1	..	14	14	66
5 Julius Caesar	2	..	2	10	40	5	..	59
6 Taming of the Shrew . .	8	1	12	18	8	47	
7 Othello	8	1	3	2	17	3	9	43	
8 As You Like It	2	3	2	1	12	3	..	14	37		
9 Henry V	35	35	
10 Winter's Tale	25	35		
11 Macbeth	6	..	2	6	5	4	..	23	
12 Twelfth Night	2	2	16	3	23		
13 Tempest	5	18	..	23		
14 Much Ado . . . . .	..	5	..	1	..	..	9	15
15 Cymbeline . . . . .	..	15	..	..	..	..	..	15
16 Comedy of Errors . . . .	..	8	..	..	..	..	2	19
17 Antony and Cleopatra . .	..	..	8	..	..	..	..	8
18 Two Gentlemen	4	..	..	..	..	..	2	6
19 Midsummer Night's Dr. .	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
20 Henry IV	3	1	..	..	..	..	..	4
21 King Lear . . . . .	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	3
Totals	88	68	50	28	48	86	92	119	97	133	769

* In the verification of dates and in the preparation of this table, I have had the assistance of Mr. A. P. Zetterberg.

W. E. SIMONDS.

COMMUNICATIONS.

A QUESTION OF 'EXEMPLARY MORALITY.'

(To the Editor of THE DIAL.)

In the issue of your journal for Sept. 16 I have read with some satisfaction the sympathetic notice of 'The Land of the Strenuous Life,' by the Abbé Klein. In the main, the criticism is gracious. The note of critical condescension, as might be expected, is not wanting.

Into the notice there has crept a biting allusion that must cut every Catholic reader to the quick. In no carping spirit do I challenge the following innuendo: 'The exemplary morality, too, that he [the Abbé Klein] delights to attribute to the restraining influence of the confessional might not be borne witness to by police court records.' No words could conceal the virus here hidden. No such dart could be hurled hap-hazard. Let me ask the reviewer, Do the police-court clerks keep a register of such criminals as are regularly at confession? Do they find on inquiry the fact that the confessional has failed

of restraining them? To what statistics did the reviewer have access in venturing the amazing opinion above quoted? Is it another fulfilment of 'I don't know the man, but I'd damn him at a venture?'

THOMAS VINCENT SHANNON.

St. Malachy's Rectory, Chicago, Oct. 5, 1905.

[Father Shannon's courteous letter of remonstrance and inquiry is of unusual interest to the reviewer; for it is just such communications, coming so unexpectedly as they do, that are blessed to our use in enabling us in some small measure 'to see ourself's as others see us.' The 'virus' which our correspondent so clearly detects must be present, in however diluted a form, else he could not have discovered it; and the only thing for the infected patient to do is thankfully to apply the anti-toxine furnished by the timely letter. And now the reviewer begs leave to ask in return whether, on re-reading the offending passage, the remonstrant would still consider his questions, concerning police-court registers, quite as fair as they are difficult to answer. For the sake of clearness, let us add a comma and change the form of the relative pronoun in the objectionable sentence, thus,—'The exemplary morality, too, [of the Catholics,] which he delights to attribute to the restraining influence of the confessional, might not be borne witness to by the police-court records.' It was the alleged superiority of Catholic over Protestant morals, and not at all the efficacy of confession, that the reviewer ventured to call in question; and on this matter the police records might conceivably throw some light. Is it virulence in a critic to query whether those of a certain designated faith are morally superior to those of another? In conclusion, it may interest Father Shannon and other readers of *THE DIAL* to learn exactly what were the Abbé's words that aroused this discussion. He says, speaking of the Catholic Church: 'By her sacraments, especially by confession, she combats intemperance, lust, and other vices, with a strength that the most beautiful discourses of Protestant ministers can never equal.'—*THE REVIEWER.*]

UNWORTHY READING FOR THE YOUNG.

(To the Editor of *THE DIAL*.)

May the little flurry over the question of proper and improper reading for the young be made the occasion for a word concerning one subtle but powerful influence in the undermining of public morality? I refer to the influence of a class of 'literature' not to be described as inflammatory, perhaps, but certainly as sensational; not debasing, but misleading; powerful, because it devotes genuine talent in narrative composition to the exposition of false ideals with an air of plausibility well calculated to deceive the reader of fair but untrained intelligence; and dangerous because it appeals primarily to readers too

young and inexperienced to perceive and avoid the dangers of its quasi-teaching.

The 'literature' that I have especially in mind is in periodical form; not the cheapest 'yellow' kind, but that which appears in the garb of apparent respectability. To be more particular, I have in mind as I write a magazine, several consecutive numbers of which have recently by chance fallen into my hands,—numbers containing a 'college' serial story. Now, there is no more attractive setting for a story for boys than that afforded by school or college life; and there is none harder to handle with justice to subject, author, and reader. Report the life realistically, and the story becomes a dry account of daily study and recitation, with an occasional plum of adventure. Make it all football and fun, and the picture is false; every incident may have actually occurred to some person, but never could all of them fall within the range of one person's experience. This story—told graphically and in very decent English—makes a course in college look like a four years' cruise with a crew of pirate cut-throats.

A group of college students are unconsciously involved in a miserable web of intrigue, including two murders, one of them the mysterious stabbing of a student on the campus. The president of the college acts as little like a college president as the police chief and the coroner do. The students mob the police, and at the coroner's inquest two of them exchange knockdowns. The thing is untrue to college life—untrue, happily, to any life. Yet it is done cleverly enough,—with a cheap tinselled cleverness that makes it all the more dangerous. This magazine, and others like it, have a large circulation. Selling for a fairly high price, they of course go into homes where the thousands of boys who read them are of sufficient natural intelligence to make the most—or the worst—of their sensational suggestions.

New York City, Oct. 8, 1905.

E. T. NELSON.

The latest issue to reach us of the 'The Publishers' Circular,' which covers very efficiently the affairs of the English book trade, is an 'Autumn Announcement Number,' containing full particulars of the forthcoming output of the English publishers. An absence of any scheme of classification makes the information unavailable for quick reference; but a casual glance through the list has revealed several items of considerable literary interest which do not appear in the announcements of any of the American publishers. Among these may be mentioned a new collected edition, in eight finely-printed volumes, of the complete works of William Ernest Henley; a two-volume 'Life of Charles Dickens, as revealed in his Writings,' by Mr. Percy Fitzgerald; a volume on 'Ideals and Realities in Russian Literature,' by Prince Kropotkin; the sixth and concluding volume, entitled 'Young Germany,' of George Brandes's 'Main Currents in Nineteenth Century Literature'; a collection of 'Essays on Mediæval Literature,' by Professor W. P. Ker; 'The Puzzle of Dickens's Last Plot,' by Mr. Andrew Lang; and a new edition of W. Cory's 'Ionica,' with a biographical introduction by Mr. Arthur C. Benson.

The New Books.

THE MOST READABLE OF THE ANCIENTS.*

A distinguished German philologist recently said that to find the best books of the past two decades one must consult not the Leipzig booksellers' catalogues but the reports of the excavations of the Egyptian Exploration societies. In a similar vein a pleased reviewer may hazard the paradox that the best English book of the year may well prove to be Mr. and Mrs. Fowler's most readable translation of the most readable of the ancients, Lucian.

The little Syrian barbarian, knocking about Asia minor in Median doublet, made of himself by the assimilation of good literature not merely a Greekling but a Greek; and verified again, five hundred years after it was uttered, Isocrates' boast that Atticism is not a racial inheritance, but a spiritual initiation.

The average college graduate knows Lucian chiefly, if not solely, as the author of those lively and much imitated skits, the 'Dialogues of the Dead' and the 'Dialogues of the Gods.' But even the general reader may learn how much more he was, from no more recondite sources than Froude's 'Short Studies,' Pater's 'Marius the Epicurean,' Mr. Lang's 'Letters to Dead Authors,' Renan's 'Marcus Aurelius,' and, last but not least, Professor Gildersleeve's witty character-sketch and the brilliant introduction to Miss Emily James Smith's 'Selections.'

Beginning as a perhaps briefless barrister and itinerant extension lecturer in the flamboyant conceited manner of the so-called new Sophistic or revived Atticism of the second century, his maturing taste gradually outgrew his tolerance of the pettiness of chicane and the trivialities of the schools. It amuses him to represent this process of growth as a conversion—a putting away of his old mistress Rhetoric, who had raised him to affluence, and a taking up with a new saucy companion, Dialogus the son of Philosophy; and commentators have taken his allusions to it as seriously as the coming New Zealander will take Matthew Arnold's account of the affecting circumstances attending his own conversion from Philistinism.

Taking his *motifs* now from the wildest flights of Aristophanic imagination, now from the character studies and nicely discriminated types of the new comedy, now from the racy prose and poetry jumble of the cynical Menippean satire, Lucian's lively genius compounded from these elements, and the prose of Plato, Herodotus, and Demosthenes, perhaps the only

literary style thus artificially acquired that seems the native and natural expression of the writer's thought, and not a mere *pastiche*. The classicism of his manner heightens by piquant contrast the effect of the realism of his matter. For, once master of his instrument of expression, he employed it chiefly on the one theme in which originality was still possible for a Greek writer—the portrayal and satire of the motley medley presented by the Greco-Roman empire at the culmination of its picturesqueness in the century that preceded its decline and fall. The opportunity for which Flaubert yearned and which Pater tried to recapture was his, and admirable was the use he made of it.

It is from Lucian that we really get to know the world of Plutarch and Dio and Marcus Aurelius, of Herodes Atticus, Aulus Gellius, and Fronto, of Justin, Minucius Felix, Athenagoras and Celcus, of Apollonius of Tyana and Alexander of Abonoteichos. The fume, the din, the opulence of the world's capital, the splendors and miseries of the life of the Greek literary hanger-on in a great Roman house, the academic peace and still air of delightful studies of Athens, the literary coteries, author's readings, and second-century clubs of every provincial centre of culture from Ephesus to Pella and Marseilles, the establishment of a new Zion and institute of divine healing in Paphlagonia, the misguided Christians who do not fear death because they believe their souls immortal and are so easily duped because they esteem all men brothers, the philosophic side-shows and congresses of religion that fill the midway from Elis to the Olympic Games; gorgeous dinners of the smart set at Rome, wedding suppers and banquets of philosophers terminating in the extinction of the lights and the intervention of the watch; a slanging match between an agnostic and a Stoic philosopher in the Painted Porch; Thessalian witches practising weird incantations on the unwary traveller in remote wayside inns; fanatic fakirs purging this mortal dross by burning themselves alive in the presence of gaping admirers; great Roman dames setting out for their summer villas with ladies' maids, curled dancing-masters, pet puppies and bearded Greek philosophers in their train; the cynic in begging friars' garb howling his contempt for the vanity of the world; the stately Platonist Ion who sees further into the theory of ideas than any living man, and whose presence in purple robe at a social function is as the Epiphany of a god,—such are some of the scenes and types portrayed in vivid panorama, a few of the facets of the ever-shifting kaleidoscope.

Lucian, however, is more than an incomparable show-master. He knows the inner intel-

* THE WORKS OF LUCIAN OF SAMOSATA. Translated by H. W. and F. G. Fowler. In four volumes. New York: Oxford University Press.

lectual and moral life of his time, can make every type of Greek and Roman, of philosopher, charlatan, visionary, professor and student, not only appear and speak, but think in character. And so it comes that he has a meaning if not a message for us. The century which he depicts so vividly bears a startling resemblance to the age of Comtism, Mormonism, Darwinism, Christian Science, and the religion of humanity, — the age of the Parliament of Religions and the Society for Psychical Research. The conquest of the globe by modern science and industrialism was lacking. But the superposition of the Pax Romana and the white highways of the Roman legions on the crazy-quilt of nations, from the Euphrates to the Tyne, was a virtual equivalent in its effect on the imagination of the man in the street. Then, as now, a thin veneer of cosmopolitan culture imperfectly protected an educated class 'dizzy with indigestion' of unassimilated philosophies, from the infatuations of a populace distracted by the pretensions of nascent and moribund religions and bewildered by the conflicting traditions of juxtaposed but unmingling peoples. Lucian's types, of which he fully perceives the typical significance, are so astonishingly pertinent and up to date that the interpreter lies under the suspicion of interpolating modern touches for effect. The rise of the religion of Alexander the false prophet—of Abonoteichos, the conversation on Phantasms of the Living in the sick chamber of old Eucrates in which dignified professors of philosophy vie with one another in the encouragement of the recrudescence of wonder, the epistle to an illiterate book-fancier, the account of the career of the fakir Peregrine, could easily be adapted with slight changes of local color to the latitude of Chicago, New York, Cambridge, or Oxford.

As offsets to all Lucian's wit and cleverness, it is customary to urge the monotony of his 'everlasting no,' the levity of his scepticism, the shallowness of the unsympathetic psychology that makes no allowance for the possible sincerity of Sludge the medium. Much could be said in defense or attenuation, did space permit. It is perfectly idle for men who 'do things,' and not infrequently do them wrong, to attempt to suppress negative and satirical criticism, whether in Lucian, Matthew Arnold, or the New York 'Evening Post.' Construction and affirmation may be two-thirds or three-fourths of life, and may be the pleasanter task. But a good fraction remains for the indispensable business of obstruction, destruction, and negation. Without it, hot-headed bunglers and cold-blooded speculators on the folly and weakness of humanity would have the world all their own way. A man is not disposed of by the cavil

that his work was essentially negative and destructive. The question is, was the work well done? Lucian's genius and the conditions of his time called him to the task of negative satire. Sophocles was more fortunate, and was born to a happier spiritual inheritance. But Lucian acted magnificently his part, and there all the honor lies.

As for his levity, if we 'clear our minds of cant' (whether with small c or large K) we shall have to acknowledge that Lucian's attitude more nearly resembles the habitual temper of the intellectual leaders of our own time than does the cosmic emotion and the pathological introspection of Marcus Aurelius, which in their exalted moods they celebrate as the absolute religion. The fact that the *Hermotimus* is eminently readable does not prevent it from being one of the most conclusive statements ever made of man's incapacity for absolute metaphysics. Lucian's levity towards the Stoicism and Platonism of his time is precisely on a par with the 'shallowness' of modern critics who refuse to take seriously the neo-Hegelian and neo-Kantian survivals and revivals of to-day. His superficiality is that of Anatole France, of LeMaitre, of Scherer, and of Renan, who justly pronounces him not only the most charming but the most solid intelligence of his age.

Lucian is now definitively added to English literature, and the English reader may seek the decision of these controversies for himself,—or, what is perhaps better, merely read him 'for human pleasure.' The translation is admirably executed in the freer manner of Jowett's Plato, as opposed to the slightly archaic vocabulary and decalcomaniac fidelity of Munro's Lucretius, Myers's Pindar, and Lang, Leaf, and Myers's Iliad. The Greek periods are broken up into short crisp sentences. The fair general meaning rather than the precise verbal turn of the original is reproduced. And the whole reads as an English original rather than as a translation. Whatever the hazards of this method in the case of Plato, where great issues may hinge on the precise connotation of a word, and a caprice of Jowett's pen create the legend of 'Plato's golden rule,' it is certainly the best way to render the delightful but slightly tautologous fluency of Lucian. In the application of it, the present translators are apparently guided by a nicer sense of the true values of the Greek than Jowett possessed—or exercised. In spite of the liberties they allow themselves, it is rarely that a point is missed or a false note struck. Idiom is rendered by idiom, proverb by proverb, and literary allusions, quotations, and technicalities of law, philosophy, or art are neatly turned by apt analogues. They sound every note in Lucian's compass, from the mock-

heroic serio-satiric eloquence of the Nigrinus, the angry contempt of the False Prophet and the Death of Peregrine, the inexhaustible inventive and imaginative verve of that 'Midsummer Night's Dream,' the 'True History,' to the solemn trifling of the Fly—an appreciation, the great case of Sigma *vs.* Tau, and the demonstration by Socratic induction in the 'Parasite' that dining out is better than dining. They have even achieved the *tour de force* of making intelligible to the English reader such curiosities as the 'Purist Purized' and 'Lexiphanes' or 'The Phrase Monger.' It is a pity that they have omitted, presumably from deference to what scornful Germans call the unaccountable English prudery, that delicious parody of Herodotus, the treatise 'On the Syrian Goddess.'

PAUL SHOREY.

LORD BYRON SELF-REVEALED.*

Whatever one's individual judgment may be concerning Lord Byron, there is no blinking the fact that no poet was ever in his own lifetime so swiftly, so tremendously popular. And not only in his own country, but throughout the world; for the first time an English poet attracted a contemporary European audience, for the first time France and Germany and Italy recognized the literature of England. But also there is no blinking the other fact that when the centenary of this idol of his times came around (1888) his reputation had faded to such a degree that scarcely any note was taken of it, and his poetry seemed to have sunk into that 'half-life' which, in sincerity or not, he had himself prophesied for it.

The Day of Judgment set by Matthew Arnold has now come, yet who recognizes the fulfillment of the critic's prophecy: 'When the year 1900 is turned, and our nation comes to recall her poetic glories in the century which has then just ended, the first names with her will be these—Wordsworth and Byron.' From time to time, indeed, a Byron revival has seemed imminent, and even has been loudly proclaimed. It was looked for last year, with the completion of John Murray's definitive edition in thirteen volumes, which had been several years in the making; while at the same time the late W. E. Henley was preparing a rival edition for Mr. Heinemann. There has just been published a complete edition of Byron's poems and dramas in the scholarly 'Cambridge' series edited by Mr. Bliss Perry; and now we have a book called 'Confessions of

Lord Byron,' containing no new matter, but consisting of classified excerpts from his letters and journals, taken from the voluminous Murray edition.

Although it cannot be said that any or all of these books have created the expected 'Byron revival,' yet they do furnish the material for a better understanding of a very contradictory character as a man, and incidentally some explanation of the vicissitudes of his reputation as a poet. The editor of these 'Confessions' is Mr. W. A. Lewis Bettany. The fact that he has previously edited in similar fashion the 'Table-Talk' of Dr. Johnson plainly serves to account for the somewhat surprising subject of his introduction, 'On Byron's Obligation to Johnson'—an obligation which, after all, is too casual to receive the prominence here given to it. The selections are classified under six heads, and deal with Byron's reflections on himself, on contemporary English poets, on his friends; also with his religious views, his opinions concerning the drama, and the literary life in general. Arranged chronologically, and covering a period of over twenty years, they serve also to show the changes of mental attitude which the progress of the years developed in Byron, as they do in all men of thought and experience. Alas that these revelations of his most intimate opinions estrange rather than endear us to the man! Gladly would we feel toward Byron as we do toward Shelley, Scott, and Leigh Hunt, and love the man even as we admire the poet. On the contrary, we are impressed by his essential unlovableness. Before he had reached the age of twenty, he wrote:

'Nature stamp't me in the Die of Indifference. I consider myself as destined never to be happy, although in some instances fortunate. I am an isolated Being on the Earth, without a Tie to attach me to life, except a few School-fellows, and a score of females. Let me but "hear my fame on the winds," and the song of the Bards in my Norman house, I ask no more, and don't expect so much. Of Religion I know nothing, at least in its favour. We have fools in all sects and impostors in most. . . I am surrounded here by parsons and methodists, but, as you will see, not infected with the mania. I have lived a *Deist*; what I shall die I know not; however, come what may, *ridens moriar*.'

That Byron had a most injudicious mother, is beyond question; that her ungovernable temper, cruel taunts, and unsympathetic attitude toward the physical deformity of her brilliant offspring, embittered his whole life is also doubtless true. Yet withal she had a fierce and spasmodic affection for him which ought to have shielded her from his habitual reference to her as 'Clytemnestra,' or from such a letter as this, written after months of separation and from a far-distant land:

* THE CONFESSIONS OF LORD BYRON. Arranged by W. A. Lewis Bettany. London: John Murray. Imported by Charles Scribner's Sons, New York.

'I trust you like Newstead and agree with your neighbors; but you know you are a *vizen*—is not that a dutiful appellation? Pray, take care of my books and several boxes of papers in the hands of Joseph; and pray leave me a few bottles of champagne to drink, for I am very thirsty;—but I do not insist on the last article without you like it. I suppose you have your house full of silly women, prating scandalous things.'

The only relative that Byron ever really loved was his half-sister Augusta. In his letters to her, or in the journal which he kept for her during his foreign travels, he is to be seen at his gentlest and best, although seldom even there free from his gloomy and continual self-consciousness. After a tour of thirteen days among the Swiss Alps, he writes:

'I am a lover of Nature and an admirer of Beauty. I can bear fatigue and welcome privation, and have seen some of the noblest views in the world. But in all this—the recollections of bitterness, and more especially of recent and more home desolation which must accompany me through life, have preyed upon me here; and neither the music of the Shepherd, the crashing of the Avalanche, nor the torrent, the mountain, the Glacier, the Forest, nor the Cloud have for one moment lightened the weight upon my heart, nor enabled me to lose my own wretched identity in the majesty, and the power and the Glory, around above and beneath me. I am past reproaches; and there is a time for all things. . . . To you, dearest Augusta I send and for you I have kept this record of what I have seen and felt. Love me, as you are beloved by me.'

Another fact which must always weigh against Byron is his *falsehood*. He was absolutely without loyalty, either in love or friendship. Professing great attachment to Shelley, he yet listened to damaging stories which he knew to be untrue and then failed to fulfill his promise to exhibit the evidence which would have fully exculpated the accused. Byron, and Byron only, had it in his power to reverse one of the most cruel of all charges against Shelley; yet the letter which would have accomplished this, which he had promised to deliver and was under every obligation of honor to deliver, was found still among his papers after his death. He was false also to Leigh Hunt in the matter of 'The Liberal,' although later he made some show of generosity. The 'Confessions' show other, though less flagrant instances; in one letter there is an acknowledgement of his own limitations in loyalty.

'As to friendship, it is a propensity in which my genius is very limited. I do not know the *male* human being, except Lord Clare, the friend of my infancy, for whom I feel anything that deserves the name. All of my others are men-of-the-world friendships. I did not feel it even for Shelley, however much I admired and esteemed him; so that you see not even vanity could bribe me into it, for, of all men, Shelley thought highest of my talents,—and perhaps of my disposition.'

Byron's delight in posing, in giving a theat-

rical air to everything he said or did, captivated his contemporaries. It threw a certain glamour over his personality, which shows up a bit dingy under our modern electric light. He loves to tell that his 'Lara' was written 'while undressing after coming home from balls and masquerades in the year of revelry 1814'; he protested that he liked *living* romances better than writing them, and that he preferred the society of gentlemen to that of literary men; he indulged in alternate abstinence and voracity in the use of food and drink; he professed an indifference verging on hostility to some things which commonly delight mankind, such as music and pictures. Of his love affairs he is never tired of making scenes and sensations. Writing in maturity of his first love affair (at the age of eight) he says:

'My misery, my love for that girl, were so violent that I sometimes doubt if I have ever been really attached since. Be that as it may, hearing of her marriage several years after was like a thunder-stroke—it nearly choked me—to the horror of my mother and the astonishment and almost incredulity of everybody.'

His first dash into poetry was with his second love-affair—at the age of twelve.

On the principal question, why Byron's poetry fails to please to-day as it pleased our grandfathers and grandmothers, we do not get much light, nor could it be expected, from this book of 'Confessions.' The answer is to be sought rather in a consideration of a somewhat new demand now made upon poetry, as a revelation of truth and a spiritual and moral insight. But on the secondary question, why even when admired as poet he is still not beloved as man, there is much illumination. The answer is,—because he was personally self-absorbed and untender, because he was false as a friend, and because the theatrical air which was so taking in his time now fails to charm a more practical and more cynical age.

ANNA B. MCMAHAN.

THE FRENCH AND ENGLISH IN AMERICA.*

The sixth and seventh volumes of 'The American Nation' series cover the period from the accession of William and Mary to the Peace of Paris. The editor of the coöperative history of which these volumes form a part deserves congratulation upon the success with which the process of 'linking,' which here is so very necessary, has been carried out. Considered separately, either volume would

* THE AMERICAN NATION: A History. Edited by Albert Bushnell Hart. Vol. VI., Provincial America, by Evarts B. Greene. Vol. VII., France in America, by Reuben Gold Thwaites. Illustrated. New York: Harper & Brothers.

seem incomplete. Professor Greene's 'Provincial America,' for example, tells us of the first two wars between France and England; while King George's War and the French and Indian War form the theme of 'France in America,' by Dr. R. G. Thwaites. The division has been skilfully accomplished; and repetition, which might have marred the endeavor, has been reduced to the lowest terms.

As we have suggested, that which most of all connects the two books is the theme of military and political history. We have long since ceased to look upon these wars between the French and the English as separate unrelated events, or as merely a part of American history. Instead, we recognize in them but phases of a world-struggle between the two great civilizations of Western Europe, between Roman Catholic France and Protestant England. Sir John Seeley has shown us that the preparation for them begins not with Louis XIV. and William III., but with Queen Elizabeth and Oliver Cromwell—monarchs who made the self-reliant, unattached, Protestant, maritime, commercial England. Henceforth, then, we demand that whoever shall write of these events shall do so in a large spirit, with something of the dash and vigor of the events themselves. This may be said of Professor Greene's account; but more especially is it true of Professor Thwaites's, as he recounts to us the thrilling story of the Siege of Louisbourg, of Washington's expedition to the Ohio country, of Braddock's failure, and, finally, of the duel between Montcalm and Wolfe.

When we turn from the tie of military history which binds these books together, to the characteristics which give to each its individuality, our task becomes harder. By far the larger part of 'Provincial America' deals not with war, but with the constitutional and social history of the Colonies in the first half of the eighteenth century. Thus we have a continuation of Professor Andrews's 'Colonial Self-government.' But there is this difference between the problems which faced Professor Andrews and these which Professor Greene has met: the earlier period is one which has been worked over and over. Doyle, for example, carried his work through the seventeenth century; and so, in a different way, did John Fiske. The Revolutionary period, likewise, has been well handled; but the interval which separates this from the seventeenth century has by many writers been slurred over. Monographs have been written in great numbers—though even more are needed, we think—but there has been a distinct lack of some constructive work to organize this scattered information. This labor Professor Greene has attempted; and, anticipating criticism by his re-

mark that 'It is hardly possible even now to write a history which can be called in any sense definitive; certainly no such claim is made for the present work,' he has given us a helpful and suggestive book.

The opening chapter presents a very satisfactory *résumé* of the conditions at the time of the Revolution of 1689; with due attention to the racial elements, religious differences, and economic occupations which made up American life. In contrast with the older policy, which was to leave to private hands responsibility for both economic and governmental administration, and to permit a larger number of small governments with little or no parliamentary control, the new policy in the latter days of the Stuarts was to substitute royal provinces for parliamentary, and where possible for the elective or corporate system; to consolidate wherever occasion offered, and to deny representation to the inhabitants. The Great Revolution in England and the subsequent disturbances in America, together with the outbreak of war with France, led to a compromise by which representation was everywhere allowed, and consolidation was reduced to the union of several colonies under the same governor. The change from the other forms to the royal province was, however, put into effect by the new government, so that by 1691 no less than five of the twelve colonies had been modelled after this type.

The dissatisfaction of all concerned with the ensuing state of things led to further regulation by the government, and now, more especially by Parliament. The Navigation Act of 1696 and other legislation resulted. This legislation was not limited merely to commerce, but included the Piracy Act of 1700, the Currency Act of 1707, and the Post Office Act of 1710. Moreover, besides this lawmaking, the organs of administration were improved by the establishment of the New Board of Trade, by increasing the supervision of colonial legislation, by strengthening judicial control, by insisting on the right of appeal to the Privy Council in England, and finally by direct attack on the colonial charters. On the other hand, colonial dissatisfaction expressed itself in vigorous resistance, and resulted in the substitution of a uniformity in the opposition of colonial assemblies to the governors which was entirely lacking in the earlier period. Influenced by the course of politics abroad, paying close regard to such acts as the Habeas Corpus and the Toleration Act, always willing to learn a lesson from the now nearly autonomous corporations to the East, all the English colonies, no matter what their form, tended toward constitutional government and democracy.

Following this is an interesting and fair-minded chapter upon the ecclesiastical relations between Puritans and Anglicans, 1689-1714. Next come the chapters on the French wars, to which reference was made above. As these possess less distinction than the other parts of the work, we proceed at once to the latter half of the book, in which are discussed imperial policy and administration to 1742 and provincial politics throughout the same period, provincial leaders, immigration and expansion, the founding of Georgia, and provincial industry, commerce, and culture.

In this part of the work the results seem to us less satisfactory. Undoubtedly this is due in large measure to the necessity for compression and to the confused nature of the events and circumstances which are chronicled. But we feel also that Professor Greene does not show that intimate acquaintance with the sources which is evident in his treatment of the earlier period. Did space permit, this criticism might be elaborated at length; but we are forced to mention only a very few points. First, there is no satisfactory reference to the constitutional experiences of any other English colonies than those on the coast: whereas much may be learned, by comparison, from the history of Jamaica, for example. The handling of internal affairs in New England seems somewhat disjointed; and the picture of New England life and thought is not as clear as one would like. No one could gather from Professor Greene's account an accurate idea of the circumstances which preceded the Great Awakening (p. 321).

Again, though this relates to the earlier chapters, the account of politics in Pennsylvania leaves practically untouched the interesting constitutional experiments of that colony, and does not mention the formation in 1702, by the lower countries on the Delaware, of a separate assembly. In the southern colonies where the colonial archives remain largely unprinted, Professor Greene's treatment is still less satisfactory. In Maryland, notwithstanding Dr. Steiner's exhaustive monograph, we have no adequate account of the restoration of the Proprietary Government. Nothing is said about the influence of German immigration into this colony, although it was very largely this which drew Maryland away from the southern colonies and made her a farming as well as a planting state. Reference is made to the improvement of tobacco in Maryland by the inspection law of 1747, but nothing is said of the similar conditions in Virginia or of the inspection laws beginning in 1730 which served as a model to the Marylanders. Finally, the interesting connection between this legislation

and the mercantile system of Great Britain is left entirely unclear.

These seem to us to constitute some weaknesses in the latter part of 'Provincial America.' On the other hand, Professor Greene has given us an excellent sketch of Georgia, has described satisfactorily Walpole's régime and the Molasses Act, has recognized the individuality of some colonial leaders whose names usually have been allowed to pass unnoticed, and, above all, has blazed the way into a difficult field, making it much easier for future writers to follow him. Surely, we owe him thanks.

While Professor Greene has dealt with a limited period of time and a widely scattered number of topics, Dr. Thwaites's work covers nearly three centuries and has a unity determined by the events themselves. *Facile princeps* among the American writers of this generation who have made the French colonization of America their field of study, Dr. Thwaites in this volume sums up the results of many years devoted to the special investigation of his subject. Again in contrast with the dearth of constructive work upon English America, the twelve volumes of Parkman have told the story of New France, and the *magni nominis umbra* still abides. But many years have passed since Parkman wrote, and it is, indeed, well to have Professor Thwaites recapitulate the results of recent criticism and fresher scholarship.

As we have suggested at the beginning of this review, the struggles known as King George's War and the French and Indian War form the central theme of this volume. These ten chapters make up more than half the book, and constitute an account of this famous duel which will not soon be superseded. There is appended a short chapter upon Spanish rule in Louisiana, from 1762 to 1803. Thus barely one hundred pages are left for the whole period before 1740. The author begins at the very beginning, and describes to us the processes which built up New France, the Acadian frontier, and Louisiana. This story of foundations is unfortunately compressed, and much detail—we might say almost all detail—is omitted. The narrative of Coligny's attempts at colonization in the South is dismissed in a few lines, and one has to turn back to Professor Bourne's 'Spain in America' for the full account. The structure of the trading companies is scantily treated. The name of Colbert does not appear in the Index, nor an account of his nursing of Canada, between 1664 and 1683, in the text. Again, hardly enough is said of the settlement and develop-

ment of the French West Indies. On the other hand, a spirited narrative describes the exploits of La Salle and Tonty, of Iberville and Bienville. We are made to see how Fleuri and Walpole both wished peace but were driven to war by the Spanish interest, how Vernon failed at Cartagena, and how Anson won a brilliant name by his exploits in the Pacific. We then come again to the war period, and by the comparison are led once more to wish that Dr. Thwaites had been able to give as full treatment to the earlier part of his work.

In closing, we wish to lay special emphasis upon two excellent characteristics of this work. The first is the wealth of geographical knowledge which is exhibited both in the text and in the excellent maps. The second is the spirit of wise, unprejudiced sympathy which pervades the work, and which is nowhere better displayed than in the chapter on 'The People of New France.' Here, sharply criticising the mistaken autocratic rule of France, through governor, intendant, and bishop, the lack of any self government, and the reign of graft which corrupted the whole official system, Dr. Thwaites stops to pay a merited tribute to the clergy, the Jesuits, Recollects, Sulpicians, and Capuchiens. 'It is not necessary to be a Catholic, nor is it essential that from the standpoint of the twentieth century we should endorse the wisdom of its every act in the eighteenth, most profoundly to admire the work of the Church of Rome both among whites and savages in New France. American history would lose much of its welcome color were there blotted from its pages the picturesque and often thrilling story of the Curés and friars of Canada in the French régime.'

ST. GEORGE L. SIOUSSAT.

IVORY CARVINGS, OLD AND NEW.*

Although the ivory carvings which have come down to our day from ancient times have engaged the attention of numerous critics and archaeologists for more than two centuries, the voluminous literature which has grown up about them is for the most part made up of monographs on special objects, or classes of objects, and critical papers concerning them. The first compendious account in any language of the progress of ivory carving throughout the world's history is furnished by Mr. Alfred Maskell in his treatise on 'Ivories,' published in the 'Connoisseur's Library,' a series of art books now appearing

* *IVORIES.* By Alfred Maskell, F.S.A. Illustrated. (The Connoisseur's Library.) New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons.

under the general editorship of Mr. Cyril Davenport of the British Museum. A high standard of excellence is set in this book: it cannot fail to take rank at once as the authoritative work upon the subject of which it treats.

The field covered by Mr. Maskell is a wide one,—too wide, in fact, to be treated with equal thoroughness throughout by any one person. Nevertheless, the shortcomings of his book are surprisingly few, and are trivial when weighed against the very obvious merits. Aside from a few points that are open to difference of opinion, the chief thing that might perhaps be criticised is the scope of the work itself. Such criticism, however, is disarmed by the pains which the author has taken to obviate, as far as he might, the tendency to incompleteness of view arising from the limitation of his theme. Considering the closeness of the relation of art-work in ivory to other branches of glyptic art,—if, indeed, mere difference in material (as, for example, that between ivory and wood) can be said to constitute a separate branch,—a treatise devoted exclusively to ivories would of necessity seem to involve a partial and insufficient presentation of the subject. Nor does the difficulty end here. True connoisseurship calls for comprehensive knowledge, including in its purview all things whatsoever which in any way throw light upon the objects under consideration. This appears to be well understood by Mr. Maskell, as his frequent references to cognate works in various fields attest. The management of this side of his topic was not the least difficult part of his task. Manifestly, he could touch but cursorily upon anything lying outside his immediate subject; else not one volume, but many volumes, would have been required. What was necessary was to indicate sufficiently that his survey is inclusive, and that the opinions expressed rest upon a far wider foundation than the study, however intimate, of ivories alone, or even chiefly, could give. For ivory carving is only a phase; it is not a thing of itself apart. It does not even call for much technical knowledge not possessed by the carvers of other materials. Yet, partly as the result of chance, it occupies a place of importance in the history of art, of which, in a way, it furnishes a sort of epitome; almost the only existing remains of European art work during some of the early centuries of the Christian era being ivory sculptures.

It is but natural that the author's predilection for ivories should lead him to hold a somewhat exaggerated notion of their intrinsic beauty. 'Ivory would seem to be a medium,' he says, 'in which the refined taste of the great sculptors of Greece must have delighted.' Despite the use of ivory in chryselephantine

statues by Phidias and Praxiteles, of which history speaks, this statement can be accepted in a limited sense only. That ivory is a beautiful substance, cannot be gainsaid; yet artists and art-lovers capable of appreciating the finer qualities in works of art find it as a material too pretty. It lends itself to delicacy and refinement of a certain sort, but not readily to the dignity and strength that noble works must have. That the Greek sculptors should have failed to perceive this, is beyond the bounds of probability. By the Japanese, the essential weakness of works carved from ivory is well understood. Neither vigor of conception nor *tour de force* in execution can quite do away with the prettiness. Effects far more bold and rugged can be got from wood. The ease with which minute detail can be carved in ivory is also a pitfall. And so, in spite of their undeniable beauty, the works of the post-renaissance ivory sculptors, with rare exceptions, fail to yield quite the same degree of æsthetic pleasure as do the comparatively crude and *naïve* performances of their fellow-craftsmen of the dark ages. No doubt, much of the *cachet* of the earlier works is due to a finer and truer sense of composition; but apart from this, their directness and simplicity give them a distinction rarely achieved by the more elaborate works of modern times.

The book opens with an interesting and instructive introductory chapter. This is followed by one on prehistoric ivories. Here the author, in his desire to be comprehensive, strays, it would seem, somewhat beyond bounds, and into a field that he has not thoroughly explored. The pieces of bone with drawings upon them, said to have been found in ancient cave-dwellings, may perhaps be classed as ivories, but not as ivory sculptures. As to the piece of a reindeer's antler carved to represent the head and shoulders of an ibex, which is figured on plate I, it is so far beyond any well attested accomplishment of barbaric man that it is impossible not to wonder at the author's credulity in accepting it as genuine; more especially as he refers, further on, to the fact that 'there has been a not inconsiderable output of spurious things of the kind which profess to have been discovered . . . in the caves of the Dordogne,' to which locality this piece is attributed. The author is on surer ground in the next chapter, which deals with ivories from the ruins of Nineveh and from ancient Egypt. Many of these have been so changed in their outward appearance as to be unrecognizable as ivory by the untrained observer. Some pieces, we are told, 'are hardly to be distinguished from ebony; others resemble basalt, slate, fossilized wood, sandstone, wax, or even possess almost

the iridescence of opal.' Still others resemble turquoise so closely as to require a chemical test to determine their true character.

Each of the nineteen chapters of this book might well claim the attention of the reviewer were space available for such extended comment. One of the most important is that devoted to the so-called consular diptychs. When formed of two leaves, the wax-covered writing-tablets in common use in Europe until modern times were termed *diptychs*. The back of each leaf was 'slightly hollowed out, leaving a raised margin to hold a very thin layer of wax, the surface of which was colored, usually black or green, so that the letters scratched upon it with the metallic style might appear white and be easily legible.' For several centuries such tablets specially made to order from the finest ivory obtainable, and often elaborately carved and sometimes otherwise embellished, were frequently used by the Roman Consuls, upon their accession to that exalted rank, for presentation to other high dignitaries. The few leaves of these consular diptychs that have survived until our day are all in public collections, where they are highly treasured. In what he has to say about these and the closely-related early Christian and Byzantine ivories, as also about reliquaries, crucifixes, pastoral staves, bishops' chairs, and other ecclesiastical accessories, Mr. Maskell writes with the authority of a scholar conversant with all the ramifications of his subject. He is equally at home in discussing the ivory-worker's art as practiced in Europe in modern times, and its application to chessmen, draughtsmen, furniture, musical instruments, weapons, and various other things. A large number of the more important pieces in European collections are described in some detail.

When he turns to the Orient, the author's information is not so wide, nor is so much of it at first-hand. The chapter on China and Japan, though it contains no serious errors, is the weakest in the book. It is chiefly taken up with *net-sukes*, concerning which he admits that in the opinion of many connoisseurs (and of all Japanese, though he does not say so) the wooden ones are best; but 'there are considerations,' he thinks, which, 'other things being equal,' ought to make us prefer the ivory ones! Of the *okimono* of recent years, though some of them are of rare merit, he has nothing to say, except that the finest ones are 'quite modern.' His orthography of Japanese names is not impeccable. The occurrence of 'Shintu' and 'Shintuism' on the same page with Shinto, the correct form, is a blunder that is especially noticeable because the book is unusually free from such mistakes.

The range and variety of the information

scattered throughout the book is very great. One item which should perhaps be noted here is the extent of the importation of ivory into Europe. In 1900 it represented no less than 30,000 slain elephants. For billiard-balls alone, the London dealers require tusks from 5,000 elephants annually. The wonder is that the supply has not long ago given out entirely. Collectors and students will appreciate the chapter on forgeries, coloring and staining, artificial ivory, and other matters of interest. The book is made serviceable by an ample index, a bibliography, lists of ivories, with a table giving their origin, date, dimensions, and present ownership, and also by the very full and excellent illustrations for which the collotype process has been used with most satisfying results. A minor defect is the omission in the text of references to the plates. This is unfortunate, since it makes it troublesome for the reader to collate the descriptions of objects with the representations of them that are given. And it is made more aggravating by wrong attributions to the plates in the list of ivories intended to supply the deficiency. For instance, wherever an object is said to be illustrated on plate VII., it will be found on plate V., and *vice versa*. But, as has been said before, the faults of the book are exceedingly slight. It is handsomely printed, light in the hand for so large a volume, and the appeal it makes to the eye is not belied on closer acquaintance.

FREDERICK W. GOOKIN.

THE YOUTH OF NAPOLEON.*

No part of Napoleon's life is so difficult to portray as his youth and his military career up to his employment at the siege of Toulon. School-days or positions of subordinate command do not offer scenes adequate to the staging of extraordinary actions. There is something petty and cramping even about the turmoil of Corsica, so that the most serious risk run by the young hero is not the assassin's knife or the party guillotine, but coming off with a belittling reputation. Under the circumstances, the biographer, especially if his knowledge of the evidence is so complete that he must reject the usual legendary material, useful in heightening effects, must tell the story plainly, with occasionally a generalization hardly borne out by the narrative but testifying to the conviction that his hero's youth was somehow in keeping with his later career. If there is anything disappointing about such a good piece of work as Mr. Browning's, this is the reason.

* NAPOLEON: THE FIRST PHASE. Some Chapters on the Boyhood and Youth of Bonaparte, 1769-1793. By Oscar Browning, M.A. With portraits. New York: John Lane Co.

In his Introduction the author explains that his work is based primarily upon the material which M. Masson has published in 'Napoléon Inconnu' and M. Chuquet in 'La Jeunesse de Napoléon.' The labors of M. Chuquet especially have added much to what has been known of the military schools of the old régime and of the organization of the army just before the Revolution. M. Chuquet has also thrown a good deal of light into the confusions of Corsican politics, but Mr. Browning confesses that it is still difficult to form a satisfactory judgment about several incidents in which Napoleon had a share, 'because we do not know enough about Corsican manners and customs.'

The account of the military schools at Brienne and at Paris gives a remarkably clear view of Napoleon's opportunities for intellectual preparation. Incidentally, it appears that the morals of the boys at Brienne were in a deplorable state, and this, in Mr. Browning's opinion, explains the fact that for some time Napoleon held aloof from his fellow students. In the Ecole Militaire at Paris, the moral tone was better. In spite of his original aversion for his fellow-students at Brienne, he seems to have lavished promotion upon several of them years later when power came into his hands. His teachers also were richly rewarded. Unhappily, one of these was Pichegru, whose reward chanced to be a tragic death as a conspirator against his old pupil.

Were one to read the conclusion of this book first, the suspicion might be provoked that Mr. Browning is so warm an admirer of Napoleon that the evidence has received the most favorable interpretation. The words are:

'Surely, in his case also, the youth is father of the man; and twenty-three years spent under the most difficult circumstances which could try the qualities of a character, crowned by high success legitimately gained, are not likely to have been followed by twenty-three other years stained by universal ambition, reckless duplicity, and an aimless lust of bloodshed. The contemplation of this laborious and brilliant youth may, perhaps, dispose Englishmen to look more favourably upon those epochs of his career when devotion to the interests of France made him, for a time, the most formidable enemy of our own country.'

It is not a little strange that Mr. Browning has found no serious lack of honor, to say nothing of ordinary honesty, in Napoleon's explanations of prolonged absence without leave from his regiment while he was in Corsica fishing in troubled waters and accomplishing nothing of advantage except for his own faction. In the course of the struggle a law of the Legislative Assembly recalled to their regiments all volunteer officers below the rank of lieutenant-colonel. To save himself from a forced return to France, Napoleon became a candidate for the position

of second lieutenant-colonel in a Corsican battalion of volunteers. One of the three commissioners who were to preside at the election was to lodge at the house of a rival. Napoleon sent a friend to bring this commissioner by force to his own house. He said to him, 'I desired that you should be free; you are not free with the Peraldi; here you are at home.' Possibly this was a reminiscence of the way the Parisians rendered Louis XVI. 'free' by forcibly removing him to Paris. Mr. Browning gravely discusses the question whether Napoleon's act of violence accounted for his election as second lieutenant-colonel. Mr. J. H. Rose, another Englishman who has recently written on Napoleon with the same material before him, calls it his 'first coup.' A comparison with Mr. Rose's conclusions in several other cases shows how favorable are Mr. Browning's interpretations of evidence. Upon the disputed question of Napoleon's share in the plan of campaign against Toulon, Mr. Browning also adopts the view that it was Napoleon who first pointed out the strategic value of the peninsula of L'Eguillette. Except in one or two instances like this, the author furnishes enough of the evidence to guard the reader against a too ready acceptance of all the inferences.

In Appendix I. are three of Napoleon's minor papers, of which the one on Corsica is the most interesting in its revelation of the tendencies and methods of his thought. His pamphlet, 'Le Souper de Beaucaire,' is analyzed at length, with selected passages, in the body of the book. A second appendix gives several papers, from the British Museum, on the operations at Toulon. Altogether this is an important contribution to the study of Napoleon's early career, clearing away the accretions of legend and presenting the known facts with satisfactory fullness.

HENRY E. BOURNE.

BRIEFS ON NEW BOOKS.

Bright essays
on various
themes.

Essays republished from the 'Atlantide' are more likely than not to be good reading. Mrs. Martha Baker Dunn's 'Cicero in Maine, and [eight] Other Essays' (Houghton, Mifflin & Co.) lose none of their brightness, their gentle satire, their quiet humor, by being thus reprinted. The curiosity-provoking title of the initial chapter refers to the writer's study of Cicero's 'Catiline' in a class of wide-awake and original youths and maidens at a high school next door to Augusta, Maine,—at Hallowell, one infers from internal evidence. Later experience as a copious reader and happy day-dreamer in a college library appears to point to Waterville College, now Colby University, as the scene of action, or inaction, as one chooses to call it. 'The Meditations of an

ex-School-Committee Woman' contain sensible suggestions on common-school education and educators, including a protest against the modern method of dispensing with text-books and making the teacher and the blackboard and the notebook take their place. A little more training of the child in the use of printed books, a little less edueing of the subject-matter out of the vacant mind of the pupil, and thus a good deal less labor and discouragement on the teacher's part, are advocated. The present-day constipated course of study, embracing various matters undreamt-of by those Hallowell youths and maidens, is also deprecated. In 'The Browning Tonic' an inspiring word is spoken for the bracing influence of Browning's verse. Mrs. Dunn is disposed to 'welcome each rebuff that turns earth's smoothness rough,' and she avails herself of this text to have a little fling at peace congresses and at 'the attitude of the American people—too large a proportion of them at least—toward the Cuban war.' To her this unmartial attitude 'illustrates the deterioration of fibre which is the result of an unstrenuous standard.' From her point of view, and to one bearing in mind the perilously narrow dividing line between conciliation and cowardice, between forbearance and fear, she is hard to answer. But may there not be a larger, a saner, a still more courageous philosophy of the vexed question, that shall in the interests of our common humanity, and of our spiritual rather than our physical evolution, dare to brave the taunt of cowardice—a harder thing than to face the enemy's cannon? Mrs. Dunn's style is delightful. 'All my world of nature,' she writes, 'is underlaid and permeated by my world of books; all my world of books is sweet with vernal breezes and interfused with that something "whose dwelling is the light of setting suns, and the round ocean and the living air and the blue sky."'

Gropings in
the realm of
the unknown.

Under the dubious title, 'Science and a Future Life' (H. B. Turner & Co.), a one-time professor of Ethics and Logic in an important university presents a *résumé* of sittings with trance-mediums and similar data gathered by himself and other members of the Society for Psychical Research, and points the moral of the tale thus adorned to the hypothesis of communication by disembodied spirits. Dr. Hyslop is earnest and able, and desires to be judicious and restrained. He has a logical conscience, and is commendably free from dogmatism and propagandism. He presents himself as driven by his experience and the 'facts' to some sort of a spiritistic hypothesis, even though the revelations from the beyond prove trivial and drivelling. Yet the good temper of his volume cannot shield it from the serious consequences of its offense; and to those who cherish as something precious the reputation of science and the worth and ideals of the votaries thereof, equally with those who draw from religious faith a sensitiveness and a healthy-mindedness that make for intellectual refinement and stability, the volume is nothing less than offensive.

More especially is the name of psychology—so unfortunately yet inevitably associated with psychic research—taken in vain, and, by those who know not the true character of that science, made to appear contemptible. There is a logical as well as a religious faith; and whatever of interest or enlightenment may cling to the conglomerate of 'cases' here massed, after we shall be informed as to their *modus operandi* the assumption that they require supernormal hypotheses is intolerable. In that direction lies, not science, but learned superstition. Naturally, one expressing this opinion is called dogmatic, and is invited to consider how often 'residual' unexplained phenomena have led to important discoveries. This, as well as other analogies that are abused in the volume, may be disqualified by a simile, and this must suffice as a commentary upon the logical obliquity that pervades those who 'research' in Dr. Hyslop's temper. His attitude is comparable to that of a student of human locomotion who regards the actual problems of how men really walk with material muscles on actual *terra firma* as commonplace, but who is keen for any evidence of flying (we all fly in dreams), or walking on air or water, or other supernormal accomplishments; and who regards his position as modest because he does not propose an ambitious soaring in the clouds, but only an occasional sporadic case of walking just a few inches above the ground. A miracle is not measured by its degree, and at the bar of science there are no mitigating circumstances.

An English
officer's wife
in India.

'My Garden in the City of Gardens' (John Lane Co.) is not at all a conventional garden-book. Rather it is a diary of incidents, reflections, and memories, with occasional references to the garden which the author over-looks as she writes. The scene is Lakhnao, India, and the anonymous writer is an English captain's wife, whose diary covers a period from October to June, the most extreme limit of a stay in the plains for ordinary white folks. So minute are some of the descriptions, that one gets a fairly vivid impression of the life in that far country, where so many Englishmen are condemned to spend their lives, where their devoted wives accompany them, and where white children, because of the terrible climate, are almost unknown. The many devices for mitigating the heat are described, together with its effects on man, beast, and vegetation. There are accounts of the social life of the white residents, and of the ways of the dirty natives, of whose habits one must not think too closely, when so much of life is dependent upon them,—for the intense heat is so enervating that it induces reliance upon the labor of others. In the Mem-Sahib's garden, the mistress does nothing herself; she merely stands by and directs her servants. What energy she has is devoted to the necessary visiting,—for there is much ceremony connected with the military service; to riding in the cool of the day, generally very early in the morning; and to superintending her household. She describes two or three hunting expedi-

tions, one for wild boar; a flower-show in 'Caesar's Garden'; a high-caste native festivity, 'memorial service and garden-party combined,' the Mohurram in the Hosein-a-bad; and the wedding of a certain lovely Belinda, whose flirtations have caused her neighbor much trepidation. Numerous incidents of the Mutiny are related, in connection with excursions into the town and adjoining country. Quite lengthy directions are given for skinning and mounting birds and animals, which the hunters generally do for themselves. There are occasional lapses into reflections that smack of the school-girl essay, and quotations and allusions abound on every page. One suspects that these latter are given from memory, without verification, especially when lines from Browning's 'Home Thoughts from Abroad' are attributed to Mrs. Browning. The writer also has the bad habit of adapting her quotations to her needs, while still retaining the marks of quotation. However, in spite of these faults and such others as an awkward style of writing and the lack of a glossary of Indian words, the book contains a good deal that is of interest in regard to life and nature in India.

Philosophy: Mr. Edmond Holmes's inquiry as
its meaning to 'What is Philosophy?' (John
and history. Lane Co.) is not only a distinctly
readable little essay, but it is illuminating as well. It would be hard to find a more persuasive statement of a certain way of looking at the task of philosophy—a way to which not all philosophers by any means would give approval, but which will at least, it is likely, open up a new outlook to many a perplexed reader to whom the word has represented something wholly vague and misty in its demarkations, if not a scientific impossibility. That the higher realities are not phenomenal 'fact,' but the things which concern the 'buried life,' the sub-conscious self of direct emotional appreciation of meanings; that these objects of faith, incapable of taking the form of an exact logical system of knowledge, yet need deepening and purifying by the giving of an outlet to the imprisoned waters; and that thought—philosophy—is one of the ways of attaining this, conduct and poetry being the other two; that the method of philosophy is the imagination working under the supervision of reason to create an ideal hypothesis that shall provide for the satisfaction of the heart's desires; that the test of philosophic truth lies finally in its capacity to be re-absorbed into those depths of unconscious spirituality in which truth loses itself in reality, its value in the quickening it gives to this inner life,—these are some of the significant points of the teaching of the essay, put with real insight and much felicity of expression. Or, to sum it up in brief, 'The function of Philosophy is to interpret and justify to man's reason the unconquerable optimism of his heart.'—Mr. Raymond St. James Perrin's work entitled 'The Evolution of Knowledge' (Baker & Taylor Co.) is a review of the history of philosophy—culminating in G. H. Lewes—which is intended to justify the author's own philosophic faith. This

is summed up in the generalization that ultimate reality is motion, to which mind and matter alike are to be reduced, and of which space and time are the objective and subjective aspects. As history, the treatment is too scrappy to be of first-rate value, and the author's inability to interpret other men's thoughts except in the light of his own scientific dogmatism makes his exposition one-sided and at times inaccurate. His constructive philosophy would perhaps be more convincing if he had not stopped with assertions, but had attempted something in the way of proof, or at least had given evidence of recognizing the need of an adequate analysis of his conceptions.

More words of counsel from Pastor Wagner. Those who have enjoyed Pastor Charles Wagner's earlier books will need no reviewer's commendation to induce them to read his latest publication, 'Justice' (McClure, Phillips & Co.), in Miss Mary Louise Hendee's fluent and apparently careful translation. Yet it must be admitted that these new chapters contain little that is essentially new to those familiar with the volumes that have preceded. The title cannot be called strikingly apposite, although the spirit of tolerance is in a general way the main theme of the book. 'A disposition to unfairness, bad faith, and evil-speaking, is abroad in every field,' says the author in his preface, 'and a matter over which men do not contend at daggers drawn, is hard to find.' To counteract this evil the little book teaches the lesson of sweet reasonableness and Christian charity. Of patriotism, as distinct from chauvinism, or jingoism, we read, 'Just as I honour the memory of my father in the grey hair of a stranger, and understand every father's heart through the tenderness I bear my children, so do I honour my country in honouring the country of others. Wherever this respect is wanting, the quality of patriotism should be mistrusted.' Many equally sensible utterances could be quoted. But as these excellent booklets of M. Wagner issue in quick succession from the press, the query will intrude itself, Are such reiterations of good counsel the things most needed by us and most praiseworthy in the writer? Is there not some danger lest 'nursed by mealy-mouthed philanthropies,' we 'divorce the Feeling from her mate the Deed'? Are we not perhaps indulging just a little too freely in those flaccid sublimities so alluring to the imaginative and emotional seeker for spiritual quickening? With more time allowed us to ponder and to live up to the author's earlier teachings, may it not be better for us and work no detriment to the popular French preacher's fame in the end?

A delightful girl's diary of olden time. Since Marjorie Fleming wrote the ill-spelled pages of her delightful journal, no child's diary has been published more fascinating, because none have been more unconscious or sincere, than 'The Diary of a Girl in France in 1821' (Dutton), in which Mary Browne wrote an account of the 121 days of her life during which she went from her home in Cumberland to Paris, and returned to Tallan-

ture. She was then but fourteen years old (her life closed in early womanhood), but she was already a very unusual person, with great gifts of observation and expression, a passionate love of all things English, and a total and very engaging lack of humor. One can imagine her as shy and silent—even among her closest friends, and more at home with her pen and pencil than with them. Every day she wrote her painstaking chronicle of what she had seen and heard, making the most of the smallest things, and so enabling us, eighty-four years after the entries were made, to see a hundred things we had not known before. We had thought ourselves at home at Meurice's Hotel, so often have the writers of the older days taken us hither; but did we know that the floors were boarded, and the furniture covered with blue cotton-velvet? Who else has told us that nearly thirty years after the Terror, the eyes of the Duchesse d'Angoulême 'were red, as if she had been crying'? It is some slight consolation to know that even so long ago, dress-makers were a disappointing race, although we are not likely to find one so frank as was the Madame who assured Mrs. Browne that 'it was not her nature to lie, but only her profession.' Surely no lodging-house could hope for tenants now-a-days if 'there were a great many toad-stools in the closet, and an ant's-nest below the floor.' Innumerable prim, childish wash-drawings illustrate the text, and form a valuable chronicle of vanishing peasant-types.

Some modern interpretations of the Bible. In 1879, the Hon. William Bross of Chicago placed in the hands of the trustees of Lake Forest University the sum of \$40,000, the income of which should be used for the purpose of stimulating the production of the best books or treatises 'on the connection, relation, and mutual bearing of any practical science, or the history of our race, or the facts in any department of knowledge, with and upon the Christian Religion.' The second series of lectures on this Bross Foundation was delivered in 1904 by Professor Marcus Dods, of New College, Edinburgh; and they are now published as Volume II. of 'The Bross Library,' under the title 'The Bible: Its Origin and Nature' (Scribner). In seven succinct chapters, Dr. Dods surveys the troublesome questions that fall within his horizon. These problems have assumed an entirely different aspect within the last quarter-century, due to the marvellous advance in modern thought and in literary criticism. The author's liberality of mind and his openness toward all new advances in theological and biblical learning are apparent on every page. He exhibits such good sense and candor in turning over and over the large problems of biblical criticism, thought evolution, and the practical value of Bible truth, that the reader soon follows him as he would a guide who thoroughly understands the road. Dr. Dods treats 'inspiration' and 'miracles,' and the historical character of the gospels, as one who is in full sympathy both with Gospel truth and with the man who is searching for

light on these problems. His spirit is not simply one of tolerance for the other side of the question, but full of winning power, of persuasiveness, and of a reasonableness that is cognizant of the best progressive thought of the times.

Music in the spacious times of the queer title 'An Elizabethan great Elizabeth. Virginal Book' (Dutton), proves on examination to be a critical essay on the contents of a manuscript in the Fitzwilliam Museum at Cambridge. The book is interesting to the student of musical history, as it contains examples of every kind of music that was current during the Tudor Period in England. Over thirty composers of the day are represented, and the collection is more correctly regarded as a library than as a mere book; it contains more direct knowledge of the musical practice of Tudor times than most of us have of the music of our own century. The author states that his work is intended for two distinct classes of readers—first, students of the history of music who have access to the published Fitzwilliam Virginal Book, but have been prevented from giving it the attention it deserves, by reason of its great size and various contents; second, students of the Elizabethan and Jacobean Drama, who daily increase in numbers, and are often at a loss for musical illustrations such as are necessary for the representation of these works on even a humble scale. Mr. Naylor has shown himself to be more than a mere antiquarian; while the method of his book is simple, he appears as an industrious and painstaking writer. It is a valuable work of reference, for it embodies all that can be required by one who is desirous of gaining a clear idea of the music of this interesting period.

Timely studies of Chinese life and character. Of the many books upon China and the Chinese which have been brought out from time to time as that particular phase of the ever-recurrent 'Eastern Question' has come into special prominence, none is so replete with valuable information within small compass as the third volume of Putnam's 'Our Asiatic Neighbors' series, on 'Chinese Life in Town and Country,' adapted from the French of Emile Bard by H. Twitchell. The viewpoint of the author is distinctly French, and it is that of a man of affairs, four years resident in the country, with abundant opportunities for travel, reading, and observation, all of which have been intelligently improved. Evidently his reading has been chiefly in the work of the French missionary, Abbé Hue, which appeared in 1862, and from which, and the Peking 'Gazette,' the oldest newspaper in the world, his most extensive quotations are made. The book has no air of hasty generalization; the chapters, though brief, are full of information, set forth in the clearest possible manner, and the whole book, despite the strangeness and even repellent character of some of the Chinese customs, exemplifies the truth of the Italian proverb to the effect that all the world is like one's own family.

Origin and development of the violin.

The violin, according to Miss Olga Raester in her book of 'Chats on Violins' (Lippincott), has reached its present perfection through imitation, or perhaps heredity; nothing tends to point to the instrument as the invention of any one man. From Mercurie's invention of the lyre played with a plectrum came the first idea of three or more strings on one instrument. From the monochord invented in the third century by Claudes Ptolemeus came the first idea of a peg by which to regulate the tension of the strings; from the Rebec, six centuries later, came the first idea of a finger-board, and the foundation of the pitch of the first three strings of the fiddle; from the Crouth came the first idea of the ribs. Finally, from the early viols, which first appeared in the fifteenth century in Germany, came the crude outline of the violin. Bulky and heavy-looking as were these early viols, yet one can distinctly trace in them a noble striving toward the graceful curves of the perfect Stradivarius form. Historical and biographical sketches of Italian and German makers are followed by an interesting chapter on the manner of preserving and playing the violin; and an appendix is devoted to the life and anecdotes of Paganini. Miss Raester's treatise is clear and concise, and not of such a technical nature as to burden the ordinary reader.

NOTES.

A volume on 'Modern English Literature,' by Mr. Edmund Gosse, is promised for early publication by the Frederick A. Stokes Co.

Mrs. Roger A. Pryor's charming 'Reminiscences of Peace and War' is published by the Macmillan Co. in a new edition, with one or two new chapters and a number of new illustrations.

'The Menace of Privilege,' by Mr. Henry George, Jr., is announced for issue early in November by the Macmillan Co. It is said to cover the whole ground of social economic conditions in America to-day.

Volumes on Admiral Farragut and General Sherman, written by Mr. John R. Spears and Mr. Edward Robins respectively, are soon to appear in the 'American Crisis Series' of biographies, published by Messrs. George W. Jacobs & Co.

The final volume of the 'Biographical' edition of Stevenson's works, now in course of publication by the Messrs. Scribner, will contain some twenty essays not heretofore included in any but the expensive subscription editions.

Two autumn publications of Messrs. Houghton, Mifflin & Co. not heretofore announced are Mr. A. G. Bradley's 'In the March and Borderland of Wales,' illustrated by Mr. W. A. Meredith, and a volume of 'Counsels and Ideals from the Writings of William Oslar.'

The Johns Hopkins Press will issue immediately a new and thoroughly revised edition of Professor William K. Brooks's book on the American Oyster; also a new metrical translation, with introduction and explanatory notes by Professor Paul Haupt, of the Book of Ecclesiastes.

A volume entitled 'In Peril of Change: Essays Written in Time of Tranquility,' by Mr. C. F. G. Masterman, an English writer not heretofore known to American readers, will be published during the autumn by Mr. B. W. Huebsch of New York.

Mrs. Humphry Ward, it is stated, will pay an extended visit to this country, arriving in New York next month. Her new novel, 'Fenwick's Career,' will appear as a serial in the 'Century' previous to its publication in book form by the Messrs. Harper.

The first supplement to the abridged edition of 'Poole's Index to Periodical Literature' is published by Messrs. Houghton, Mifflin & Co. It is the work of Mr. William I. Fletcher and Miss Mary Poole, and covers the contents of thirty-seven selected periodicals for the years 1900-4, inclusive.

'The Life and Speeches of Thomas Williams,' the American orator, statesman, and jurist, has been prepared by Mr. Burton Alva Konkle, and is announced for early publication in two volumes by Messrs. Campion & Co. of Philadelphia. An introduction is contributed to the work by the Hon. Philander C. Knox.

A new translation, by Mr. J. G. Scheuchzer, of Engelbert Kaempfer's 'History of Japan in 1693' is announced for publication by the Macmillan Co. in a limited edition uniform with the same firm's recent reprints of 'Hakluyt's Voyages' and 'Purchas his Pilgrimes.' The three volumes will contain more than two hundred illustrations.

In her forthcoming volume entitled 'Il Libro D'Oro,' Mrs. Lucia Alexander has brought together a collection of more than one hundred and twenty miracle stories and sacred legends, written by fathers of the church and published in Italy in the sixteenth, seventeenth, and eighteenth centuries. Messrs. Little, Brown, & Co. will publish the book this month.

A new and moderate-priced edition, in a single volume, of the Memoir of Lord Tennyson by his son is a welcome publication of the Macmillan Co. Though the volume contains nearly eleven hundred pages, it is not unduly cumbersome. The publishers state that the original two-volume edition of this work has been reprinted eight times since its first appearance, nine years ago.

It has been found necessary by Messrs. Houghton, Mifflin & Co. to postpone until next Spring the publication of Mrs. Elizabeth Robins Pennell's biography of her uncle, the late Charles Godfrey Leland ('Hans Breitmann'); and also of Professor Joseph Jastrow's 'The Subconscious,' Mr. William Oser's 'The Fixed Period,' and Mr. Henry D. Sedgwick's 'A Short History of Italy.'

A collection of the letters of the late Lafcadio Hearn has been undertaken by Messrs. Houghton, Mifflin & Co. It will be edited, with a biographical outline, by Mr. Ferris Greenslet of the 'Atlantic Monthly,' with the collaboration of Mrs. Hearn and of Mr. Basil Hall Chamberlain, the literary executor. It is requested that persons having letters of Hearn's will kindly communicate with the editor at No. 4 Park Street, Boston.

A new and enlarged edition of Hay and Nicolay's collection of the writings of Abraham Lincoln is announced for early publication by a new firm of New York publishers, the Francis D. Tandy Company. The very considerable amount of important new material that has come to light since the original issue of this work will be included, and besides a general introduction by Mr. Richard Watson Gilder, each of the eleven volumes will

contain some noteworthy tribute to Lincoln's genius, chosen from the utterances of famous writers and statesmen of the past quarter-century. Numerous illustrations, editorial notes, a bibliography, and an index will be included.

Mr. D. B. Updike announces the establishment of a bindery at The Merrymount Press under the charge of Mr. Peter Verburg, whose work is already favorably known in Chicago and New York. Mr. Verburg, who studied some time ago under Mr. Douglass Cockerell, was at one time an associate of Miss Starr in her bindery at Hull House, Chicago, and later on was employed by Mr. Ralph Randolph Adams at his bindery in New York.

To their successful 'New Century Library' Messrs. Thomas Nelson & Sons have just added the complete works of Shakespeare, in six volumes. The edition is of pocket size, clearly printed and attractively bound, with a frontispiece illustration in each volume. The paper used in the 'New Century Library' is especially to be commended; while extremely thin and light, it does not offer the same difficulty in regard to turning the leaves that is so serious an objection to many of the thin-paper editions.

Lovers of fine bookmaking, no less than lovers of good poetry, should be interested in the announcement of Messrs. L. C. Page & Co. concerning the forthcoming collected edition of Mr. Bliss Carman's Poems. The edition will be limited to 350 copies, printed in red and black throughout at the Chiswick Press, London, on hand-made paper prepared by Messrs. Arnold & Foster especially for this work. The collection has been compiled from Mr. Carman's various published works, supplemented by a large number of poems which have already appeared in periodicals, but which are now included in a book for the first time.

Dr. J. Chotzner, late Hebrew tutor at Harrow, is the author of a collection of essays on subjects pertaining to Hebrew literature, which have been combined into a volume and published under the title 'Hebrew Humor, and Other Essays' (London: Luzac & Co.). The humor and satire in the writings of Jewish scholars, ancient and modern, forms the leading theme of many of the articles. The most interesting and complete papers are those dealing with Mediæval Writers, Immanuel di Roma, and Leopold Zunz. The form is generally biographical, citation taking the place of criticism to a large extent. This detracts from the literary value of the essays, while adding to their usefulness as a reference collection. The volume will be of service to Jewish rabbis and writers, and to others who desire a survey of this interesting subject.

LIST OF NEW BOOKS.

[The following list, containing 178 titles, includes books received by THE DIAL since its last issue.]

BIOGRAPHY AND REMINISCENCES.

- ON TWO CONTINENTS: Memories of Half a Century. By Marie Hanson Taylor; with the co-operation of Lillian Bayard Taylor Kiliani. Illus., large 8vo, gilt top, uncut, pp. 309. Doubleday, Page & Co. \$2.75 net.
- THE DUKE OF REICHESTADT (Napoleon the Second): A Biography compiled from New Sources of Information. By Edward de Wertheimer. Illus., in photographure, etc., large 8vo, gilt top, uncut, pp. 455. John Lane Co. \$5 net.
- THE TRUE STORY OF PAUL REVERE. By Charles Ferris Gettemy. Illus., 12mo, pp. 294. Little, Brown & Co. \$1.50 net.
- MOHAMMED AND THE RISE OF ISLAM. By D. S. Margoliouth. Illus., 12mo, pp. 481. 'Heroes of the Nations.' G. P. Putnam's Sons. \$1.35 net.

ALFRED, LORD TENNYSON: A Memoir. By his Son. New edition, two volumes in one. Large 8vo, gilt top, uncut, pp. 1100. Macmillan Co. \$4. net.
 REMINISCENCES OF PEACE AND WAR. By Mrs. Roger A. Pryor. Revised and enlarged edition. Illus., 8vo, gilt top, pp. 418. Macmillan Co. \$2. net.
 WITH MILTON AND THE CAVALIERS. By Mrs. Frederick Boas. With portraits, 12mo, gilt top, pp. 336. James Pott & Co. \$1.50 net.
 ANDREW MARVELL. By Augustine Birrell. 12mo, gilt top, uncut, pp. 241. 'English Men of Letters.' Macmillan Co. 75 cts. net.
 HERNANDO CORTES, Conqueror of Mexico. By Frederick A. Ober. Illus., 12mo, pp. 292. 'Heroes of American History.' Harper & Brothers. \$1. net.

HISTORY.

MOUNT DESERT: A History. By George E. Street; edited by Samuel A. Elliot; with a memorial introduction by Wilbert L. Anderson. Illus. in photograph, etc., 8vo, gilt top, uncut, pp. 170. Houghton, Mifflin & Co. \$2.50 net.
 IN THE DAYS OF MILTON. By Tudor Jenks. Illus., 16mo, pp. 306. 'Lives of Great Writers.' A. S. Barnes & Co. \$1. net.
 CHINA'S INTERCOURSE WITH CORREA, from the XV. Century to 1895. By William Woodville Rockhill. 8vo, pp. 60. London: Luzac & Co. Paper.

GENERAL LITERATURE.

FRENCH PROFILES. By Edmund Gosse. 12mo, gilt top, pp. 372. Dodd, Mead & Co. \$1.60 net.
 SHELBURNE ESSAYS. Third Series. By Paul Elmer More. 12mo, pp. 265. G. P. Putnam's Sons. \$1.25 net.
 CICERO IN MAINE, and Other Essays. By Martha Baker Dunn. 12mo, gilt top, pp. 280. Houghton, Mifflin & Co. \$1.25 net.
 THE WORDS OF GARRISON: A Centennial Selection. With biographical sketch, list of portraits, bibliography, chronology, and photograph portrait. 12mo, gilt top, pp. 137. Houghton, Mifflin & Co. \$1.25 net.
 JUSTICE. By Charles Wagner; trans. from the French by Mary Louise Hendee. 16mo, gilt top, uncut, pp. 227. McClure, Phillips & Co. \$1. net.
 WAGNER AND HIS ISOLDE. By Gustav Kobbé. Illus., 16mo, gilt top, pp. 255. Dodd, Mead & Co. \$1. net.
 THE UNITED STATES A CHRISTIAN NATION. By David J. Brewer. 12mo, gilt top, uncut, pp. 98. John C. Winston Co. \$1.
 ASPECTS OF BALEAC. W. H. Helm. 12mo, uncut, pp. 206. James Pott & Co. \$1. net.
 BUSINESS PHILOSOPHY. By Benjamin Cobb. 12mo, pp. 292. T. Y. Crowell & Co. \$1.20 net.
 EDITORIAL WILD OATS. By Mark Twain. 8vo, pp. 83. Harper & Brothers. \$1.
 THE ONLY TRUE MOTHER GOOSE. With introduction by Rev. Edward Everett Hale, D.D. Illus., 18mo, pp. 103. Lee & Shepard. 60 cts.
 THE DIVINE COMEDY OF DANTE: Four Lectures. By Walter L. Sheldon. 12mo, pp. 126. S. Burns Weston. 50 cts.
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